

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /034 W

----- 008019

R 040609Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2653

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ABU DHABI 0490

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, TC

SUBJ: NEAR EAST LUMBER MARKETS

REF: STATE 39568

1. FOLLOWING TYPES OF LUMBER AND PLYWOOD ARE USED IN UAE:

(A) SOFTWOOD (ROUGH, SAWN, FIRN, PINE OR SPRUCE)

THICKNESS 1-4 INCHES

WIDTH 2-12 INCHES

LENGTH 13 FEET

FOR CONCRETE POURING FRAMES

(B) HARDWOOD (ROUGH, SAWN, OAK)

THICKNESS 2-4 INCHES

WIDTH 3-12 INCHES

LENGTH 12-20 FEET (PRIMARILY 20 FEET)

FOR CEILING SUPPORTS, CONCRETE POURING,

LIMITED USE IN FURNITURE MANUFACTURING.

(C) PLYWOOD (WATER RESISTANT AND UNCOATED)

THICKNESS 3/4" 25 MM

WIDTH 4 FEET (3 FEET FOR WATER RESISTANT)

LENGTH 8 FEET (7 FEET FOR WATER RESISTANT)

FOR CONCRETE POURING AND CARPENTRY.

2. DOMESTIC PRICES (QUOTED ON BASIS OF CUBIC METER) HAVE

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FLUCTUATED WIDELY DURING 1974. LUMBER AND PLYWOOD OF ALL

TYPES SOLD FOR AS MUCH AS \$300/CU. METER IN EARLY 1974, FELL IN THE THIRD QUARTER TO \$187.50, ROSE AT THE END OF THE YEAR TO \$237.50 AND ARE NOW ABOUT \$162.50. IMPORT PRICES HAVE STEADILY DECREASED DURING 1974 FROM A HIGH OF \$220 TO PRESENT LEVEL OF \$140. INTERNAL PRICE FLUCTUATIONS WERE PROBABLY CAUSED BY (A) ENTRY INTO THE MARKET BY NEW IMPORT-DISTRIBUTORS, (B) SPECULATIVE PURCHASING OF LUMBER IN RESPONSE TO TEMPORARY SHORTAGES FOLLOWED BY PANIC SELLING TO UNLOAD STOCKS, AND (C) POSSIBLE INTERVENTION SALES BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (SUCH AS ABU DHABI NATIONAL BUILDING MATERIALS COMPANY OR UAE TRADING COMPANY) TO LOWER DOMESTIC PRICES.

3. CONSUMPTION: ABU DHABI'S IMPORTS AVERAGE 35 TO 40 THOUSAND CU. M. PER YEAR. OVER 90 PERCENT IS USED IN CONSTRUCTION, THE REMAINDER FOR CARPENTRY AND PANELLING. DUBAI'S IMPORTS APPROXIMATED 80 TO 85 THOUSAND CU. M. ANNUALLY WITH 75 PERCENT IN CONSTRUCTION AND 25 PERCENT FOR OTHER USES. OVER 40 PERCENT OF DUBAI'S IMPORTS ARE RE-EXPORTED TO MUSCAT AND THE SMALLER EMIRATES OF THE UAE. RUSSIA, RUMANIA, AND AUSTRIA ARE THE LARGEST SUPPLIERS OF SOFTWOOD. SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA THE SUPPLIERS OF HARDWOODS. PLAYWOOD IS IMPORTED FROM SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, FORMOSA AND INDIA.

FUTURE CONSUMPTION IS UNPREDICTABLE. AT PRESENT, THERE IS AN OVER SUPPLY OF ALL TYPES OF LUMBER WHICH IMPORTERS EXPECT TO CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS, PERHAPS AS LONG AS ONE YEAR. ONCE INVENTORIES ARE WORKED DOWN TO MORE REASONABLE LEVELS, LUMBER AND PLYWOOD IMPORTS MAY NOT RESUME PAST GROWTH RATES. FIRSTLY, THE REDUCED VOLUME OF ABU DHABI'S CRUDE OIL EXPORTS MAY RESULT IN A SLOWDOWN OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY DUE TO REVENUE CONSTRAINTS. SECONDLY, WITH ADEQUATE PORT FACILITIES TO BE COMPLETED, MUSCAT WILL IMPORT DIRECTLY RATHER THAN THROUGH DUBAI.

#### 4. STATISTICS: DUBAI IMPORTS OF:

A. PLYWOOD  
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	1972		1973	
	KILOS	VALUE	KILOS	VALUE
	MILLIONS)	(MILLIONS OF	(MILLIONS)	(MILLIONS
OF				
	DIRHAMS)		DIRHAMS)	
TOTAL	7.4	7.1	20.3 ;	27.9

MALAYSIA	4.2	3.8	8.6	9.5
SINGAPORE	2.9	2.8	8.5	13.6
JAPAN	.1	.2	2.4	3.7

## B. SOFTWOOD

TOTAL	-0-	-0-	5.0	1.7
RUMANIA	-0-		-0	
5.0	1.7			

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /034 W

----- 010788

R 040609Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2658

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ABU DHABI 0490

## C. TIMBER

	1972		1973	
KILOS		VALUE		
KILOS	VALUE			
(MILLIONS)	(MILLIONS OF	(MILLIONS)	MILLIONS OF	
	DIRHAMS)		DIRHAMS)	
TOTAL	38.9	15.6	52.4	28.2
USSR	10.1	1.8	4.5	1.1
SINGAPORE	9.9	3.7	12.9	8.2

MALAYSIA	9.5	3.3	20.7	10.5
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AUSTRIA	8.2	6.1	6.2	5.5
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ABU DHABI IMPORTS: FIRST QUARTER 1974  
SITC 2432

	KILOS (MILLIONS)	VALUE (MILLIONS OF DIRHAMS)
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TOTAL	1.5	2.3
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AUSTRIA	1.2	.8
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YUGOSLAVIA	.4	.3
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MALAYSIA	.3	.0
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SINGAPORE	.2	.2
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SITC 2433

TOTAL	2.5	3.4
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GA

RUMANIA	1.3	.8
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YUGOSLAVIA	.6	.4
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TURKEY	.5	.5
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AUSTRIA	.4	.3
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SITC 6314

TOTAL	2.1	1.3
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USSR	1.8	01.0
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AUSTRIA	.2	.1
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RUMANIA	.1	.1
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5. LEADING UAE IMPORTERS ARE:

(A) ARAB BUILDING MATERIALS CO.

P.O. BOX 56

ABU DHABI

AND

P.O. BOX 1596  
DUBAI,

(B) CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT & CONTRACTING COMPANY (CICON)  
P.O. BOX 660  
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ABU DHABI

(C) AL-SHIRAWI TRADING & CONTRACTING CO.  
P.O. BOX 811  
ABU DHABI

AND

P.O. BOX 2032  
DUABI

(D) SAEED SULTAN LOOTAH  
P.O. BOX 553  
DUBAI.  
STERNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <23 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

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Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEAR EAST LUMBER MARKETS  
**TAGS:** BEXP, TC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006